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Rep. Sanfelippo calls on Legislature to protect law-abiding drivers

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) is calling on his colleagues in the state Legislature to protect law-abiding motorists from continued physical and financial hardships caused by drivers who operate vehicles without the proper automobile insurance coverage.

Sanfelippo's proposed [Assembly Bill 92](#), which was circulated in February, would increase the fines for those who are caught driving without liability insurance, something that has been required by state law since 2009.

The [legislation](#) also compels the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to suspend a motorist's license upon receiving proof of a conviction for failure to have insurance.

Sanfelippo points to a recent [letter to the editor](#) in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as an example of why it's important for the Legislature to pass AB 92.

In the letter, titled "Toughen car insurance penalty," Kathy Schuh of Franklin explains an incident that occurred this spring where her car was totaled by an uninsured motorist who ran a red light.

Schuh was amazed to learn the uninsured driver was only issued municipal citations and tickets, fines she believes will probably never be paid. Adding insult to injury, the law-breaking motorist had recently sought and received bankruptcy protection.

Schuh said her insurance carrier had to foot the entire bill to replace her vehicle, as well as her medical expenses for the soft tissue and whiplash injuries she suffered in the crash.

Due to additional costs related to deductibles, rental cars, lost wages and increased insurance rates, Schuh says she was out approximately \$2,000 because "a young man chose to drive an unlicensed, uninsured motor vehicle and then ignored traffic regulations as well."

"Think about how many times this scenario plays out on a weekly basis throughout our state," Sanfelippo said. "It is completely unfair to keep penalizing law-abiding citizens who are the victims of people who knowingly choose to break the law. We must take action now and not allow this to continue to happen."

As a companion piece, Sanfelippo is also [circulating a bill](#) that would require the impoundment of most vehicles involved in offenses of operating without a license, operating after revocation or operating while suspended.

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